COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY ON LIBRARY RESOURCES AND USERS IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN SOUTH-SOUTH GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of collection development policy on library resources and users in university libraries in South-South Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria. A collection development policy established ground rules for planning and budgeting, selecting and acquiring library resources. These documents provide a framework for coordinated collection development programmes for academic libraries for effective service to the academic community. A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. A purposive sampling technique was used to draw a sample of one hundred and fifty (150) library users from three university libraries namely: University of Calabar (UNICAL), Cross River State University of Technology (CRUTECH) and University of Uyo (UNIUYO). The instrument used to collect data was titled: Collection Development Policy on Library Resources and Users Questionnaire (CDPLRUQ). Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient of 0.78 was established. Simple percentages were used to analyze the data collected from the respondents. From the findings, it was observed that problems such funding pattern, information explosion and inflation were some of the variables affecting the smooth collection development policy in Nigerian university libraries. It was recommended that, the university libraries should train the librarians on business and negotiation skill that will enable them to understand the integrity of licensing and negotiation involved in the subscription of resources. More so, there should be an increase in the internet bandwidth in order to improve the network access to resources on regular basis.

KEYWORDS: Collection development, policy, library resources, library users, university libraries.

INTRODUCTION

The major task of any library is to provide those materials which the individual user will find reliable and useful. The amount of satisfaction a reader finds in a library depends directly upon the materials the librarian has available for his/her use; and these can only be possible with live collections. Thus, collection development is viewed as the process of building up and improving upon library's information resources both qualitatively and quantitatively. It's a

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universal process in libraries whereby a library brings together a variety of materials needed to meet patrons' demands. This aspect of the practice is responsible for selecting and acquiring information materials that would enable librarians and information specialists perform their myriad functions to the users effectively. Therefore, collection development involves community analysis acquisition policy, selection, acquisition, weeding and evaluation (International Federation of Library Association –IFLA, 2012).

The quality and quantity of collection development in the library is a necessary measure or criteria for accrediting new faculties/ programmes in universities and other related higher institutions of learning in Nigeria. Moreover, resource development is a very important service in the library because without adequate and appropriate resources; no library can claim to be effective in serving her users. The process of collection development should involve selection of current and retrospective materials, planning of coherent strategies for continuing acquisition, and evaluation of collections to ascertain how well they serve user's needs.

A library collection usually consists of books, journals, magazines, newspaper, periodicals and non-book materials like electronic media (video/ audio-visuals, cassettes, recorders, microfiches, CD-ROM, internet, maps, electronic books) and computers. According to Samantaray and Rath (2014), building a collection may occasionally involve the selection and acquisition of these materials, but in most cases it is the planning of the systematic development of the already existing collection.

Generally, in every library simple or complex; there are operational guidelines and policies that guide the acquisition and collection of information materials. Igiamo and Duro (2012) opined that policy ensures that all information materials acquired are relevant to the users of the library for effective utilization. To develop a policy, however, is a very complex process that involves every stakeholder or users of the library. It's not only the librarians and information specialists that formulate the policies; faculties and other interested individuals or users are also involved. The policy should reflect the vision and mission of the parent institution. For effective collection development policy, there must be a document that clearly highlights the mission and vision statement of the library. A policy development process requires proper planning to enhance a standard policy document. Usually, the planning

committee comprises professionals and library users. Library policies should be able to spell out explicitly what kind and type of resources to acquire in order to meet the needs of the users. However, a policy document provides sound foundation for future planning which assist in determining priorities especially when financial resources are limited. It's a wise guide to selection rather than a practical method of selecting materials. Collection development policies are virtually significant to libraries and the librarian because it serves as a set of directory for orderly selection, acquisition and management of materials accessibility to users.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Aina (2004) asserted that one of the fundamental functions of the library and information profession is collection development. This involves the practice that has to do with selecting and acquiring information materials that will enable librarians and information specialists to perform various functions to the users. According to him, formulating appropriate library policies and measures for the budget implementation as well as monitoring various collection development strategies and resources sharing among other institutions are problems faced by collection development policy makers. He observed that inadequate funding, inability of the library and Librarians to operate a clearly established policy, absence of written development policy, socio-economic changes, poor planning and information explosion hamper effective collection development in libraries.

Samantaray and Rath (2014) highlighted the importance of collection development in libraries. They said certain variables have to be taken into consideration while developing a qualitative collection for the benefit of the users. These factors include policies, principles, techniques and procedures, problems associated with collection/development and weeding out as well. It is equally important to evaluate the collections to assess its use and moreover the usefulness of collection development in electronic environment. They suggested that, library professionals need to take utmost care in developing a balanced collection, which enhances the quality of the library.

Relatively, Okogwu and Ekere (2018) in the study on collection development policy of electronic resources in university libraries ascertained the types of policies guiding electronic resources collection development practices; identifies the tools used in making sound electronic resources

collection development; and determines the criteria considered in the evaluation of electronic resources of university libraries. The study recommended that libraries should formulate and develop electronic resources collection development policy; efforts should be made by libraries to adopt a written electronic resources collection development policy which serves as a guide and for references and continuity among the librarians that are involved in e-resources collection development. Also, electronic resources should be evaluated on a regular basis by considering relevant factors to disclose those electronic resources that are of high and maximum utilization.

Ali (2020) explored the opportunities and challenges in the management of collection development policy in libraries. Collection development is considered a critical factor in the provision of adequate and relevant information resources in the library. In order to develop a balanced and unbiased collection, libraries formulate a policy that will serve the interest of the entire clientele. Collection development or acquisition librarians encounter challenges (both internal and external) in the process of formulating collection development policy. The study found that acquisition librarians play a vital role in ensuring access to library information resources through the formulation of policies that guide them through this process. The study also discovered that while some libraries have written collection development policies, some have unwritten, and others do not have at all. A good number of literature consulted on the subject matter identified inadequate funding, internal and external interference, issues bordering on preservation, donations/gifts, vendors, intellectual property rights and inadequate knowledge of ICT as major impediments militating against the maintenance of balanced collection development policy. The study suggested adequate funding, adequate training and retraining of acquisition librarians in the areas of modern information technology as it relates to formulating guidelines for selecting electronic information resources and minimal interference from the libraries' parent organizations.

Purpose of the study
This study sought to find out if collection development policy has effects on resources and users of the universities library.

Research questions
1.   What effect does collection development policy have on library resources?
2.   What effect does the collection development policy have on library users?
3.   What are the problems hindering the smooth operation of collection development policy?

Research Methodology
The study selected three Universities from the South-South Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria namely: University of Calabar (UNICAL), Cross River State University of Technology (CRUTECH) and University of Uyo (UNIUYO). The instrument used for collection of data was titled: Collection Development Policy on Library Resources and Users Questionnaire (CDPLRUQ). A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. A purposive sampling technique was used to draw a sample of one hundred and fifty (150) library users from the three universities mentioned in the study. Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient of 0.78 was established. And simple percentages were used to analyze the data collected from the respondents.

RESULTS
The results from the data collected are shown in the Tables based on the research questions.

Table 1: What effect does collection development policy have on library resources?

ITEMS	SA	A	%	SD	D	%	TOTAL
1. The collection development policy has a great effect on library resources	48 (32%)	33 (22%)	(54)	40 (27%)	29 (19%)	(46)	150 (100%)
2. A greater percentage of library growth and systematic arrangement is attributed to collection development policy	45 (30%)	40 (27%)	(57)	48 (32%)	17 (11%)	(43)	150 (100%)
3. Library resources are up to date with current trends of events in the society	43 (29%)	39 (26%)	(55)	35 (23%)	33 (22%)	(45)	150 (100%)
4. A good collection development means a good library collection.	53 (35%)	37 (25%)	(60)	43 (29%)	17 (11%)	(40)	150 (100%)

The data from Table 1 item 1 showed that a greater percentage of the one hundred and fifty (150) respondents agreed that the collection development policy has a good effect on library resources. Fifty-four (54%) agreed while forty-six (46%) of the respondents disagreed to this fact. In item 2, fifty-seven (57%) of the respondents admitted that a greater percentage of the library growth and systematic arrangement is attributed to the collection development policy while 43% of them disagreed to it. From item 3, fifty-five (55%) of the respondents confirmed that library resources are up to date with current trends of events in the society while 45% disagreed to it. And item 4 showed that 60% of the respondents supported the assertion that a good collection development means a good library collection while 40% disagreed to it.

Table 2: What effect does collection development policy have on library users?

ITEMS	SA	A	%	SD	D	%	TOTAL
1. Library users are satisfied with the services rendered to them by the library	66 (44%)	53 (35%)	(79)	16 (11%)	15 (10%)	(21)	150 (100%)
2. Students and other users always get positive results from library use.	50 (33%)	60 (40%)	(73)	28 (19%)	12 (8%)	(27)	150 (100%)
3. A university library exists to meet information needs of the users.	65 (43%)	51 (34%)	(77)	18 (12%)	16 (11%)	(23)	150 (100%)

Information from Table 2, item 1, shows that as much as 79% of the respondents agreed that library users are satisfied with the services rendered to them by the library while only 21% disagreed to the fact. This shows that services provided by the three university libraries to their users are satisfactory. Item 2 showed that 73% of students and library users appreciate the outcome from library use while 27% were not in agreement. And item 3 indicates that 77% confirmed the view that university library exist to meet information needs of the users and 23% respondents did support the view.

Table 3: What are the problems hindering the smooth operation of collection development policy?

ITEMS	SA	A	%	SD	D	%	TOTAL
1. Fund is needed for effective library collection development	65 (43%)	60 (40%)	(83)	15 (10%)	10 (7%)	(17)	150 (100%)
2. Information explosion makes academic library collection development difficult to operate.	77 (51%)	44 (29%)	(80)	22 (15%)	7 (5%)	(20)	150 (100%)
3. Lack of clear collection development policy makes the policy difficulty to understand by staff	66 (44%)	52 (35%)	(79)	23 (15%)	9 (6%)	(21)	150 (100%)
4. Poorly organized library resources make access by the users difficult.	77 (51%)	40 (27%)	(78)	18 (12%)	15 (10%)	(22)	150 (100%)

The findings from Table 3 item 1 show that a reasonable percentage of the respondents that is 83% admitted that funding is a major variable that hinders effective operation of library collection development; 17% disagreed to it. The next item indicates that 80% agreed that information explosion makes it difficult for academic library to operate the policy successfully; 20% did not support it. In the same manner, items 3 maintains that 79% respondents is of the opinion that lack of clear collection development policy make policies difficult to understand while 21% did not upheld it. And in item 4, seventy-eight (78%) of the respondents agreed to the fact that poorly organized library resources make access by the users' difficult as against 22% respondents who opposed it.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS
The study revealed that library collection development policy has a significant effect on library resources. A closer look at the itemized statements in Table 1 revealed that a reasonable percentage supported that, collection development policy has a positive effect on library resources. These assertions corroborate Umoh and Abua (2021) who opined that the goal of library education is familiarizing students with the role of information in the society/ awareness of information resources. The findings support Okogwu and Ekere (2018) assertion that library growth and systematic arrangement is attributed to a sound collection development policy. Interestingly also, the recent study revealed that the library resources on the average are up to date with the current trends of events in the society, this is in line with the findings highlighted by Igiamo and Duro (2012), IFLA (2012) views that collection development policy ensures that

all information materials acquired are relevant to the needs of every stakeholder of the library for effective utilization.
Table 2 provided results on the effect of collection development policy on the library users. It was revealed that, university library exist to meet information needs of the users of which strengthen the view of Igajah (2013) that library policy made should contribute to the advancement of knowledge by providing resources for effective utilization of the needs of her users. Relatively, on the assertion that student/ other library users always get positive results from library use or are they satisfied with the services rendered to them? Corroborate Mansur (2012), Aina (2004) findings that, collection development is the selection, acquisition, and processing of library materials in varied formats meant for users' current needs and their future requirements.
In consideration of Table 3, the findings in the recent study identified some of the problems hindering the smooth operation of collection development policy to include: funding; lack of clear understanding of the policy; poor management and implementation of the policy; inadequate and obsolete resources; poorly organized resources and information explosion are all variables affecting functional collection development policy in libraries. These challenges consolidate assertions of Ali (2020), Benny (2017) and Jenson (2017) to include: increase in the cost of books and journals, security in library environment, problems related to check the reliability and authenticity of the digital information, control over the copy right act, availability of library materials in various physical medium, increased demand of the readers, fluctuation in the exchange rate and so on. To

overcome these challenges, they suggested that librarian should always go for materials that are relevant and cost effective, depending on the budget, electronic security gadgets are preferred. The library can go for CCTV device to tract any threat of theft. It is advisable to emphasize on purchase on local but relevant resources when the exchange rates are high.

CONCLUSION

Developing a balanced and usable collection is important aspect of library services. The university libraries are built up to meet specific research and information needs of the parent institutions and community services. The collection development policy is the basis upon which the library collection is built. University is a citadel of learning, teaching and research; the main duty of the university libraries are to acquire, organized, store and disseminate information resources for the effective academic programmes within the university system.

The funding pattern of university libraries in the south-south geo-political zone is very low and inadequate. It is therefore concluded that collection development policy, acquisition of materials, satisfaction of collection and users, as well as challenges faced by the university librarians should be given urgent attention by the Government and policy makers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of this study the following recommendations were made:

1.   The University libraries in South-South Nigeria should provide adequate funds to improve on   the library infrastructures.

2.   The provision of adequate fund will necessitate the subscription of better network for improved   access to information resources.

3.   The provision of adequate fund will encourage timely renewal of resources to avoid loss of access to the resources.

4.   The university libraries should train the librarians on business and negotiation skill that will   enable them to understand the integrity of the licensing and negotiation involved in the   subscription of resources.

5.   The librarians should follow up with the provider to avoid losing access to resources if not renewed at   expiry.

6.   The selectors should devise a means of applying usage statistics to a cancellation decision.

7.   Increase in the internet bandwidth in order to improve the network access to resources   on regular basis.

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